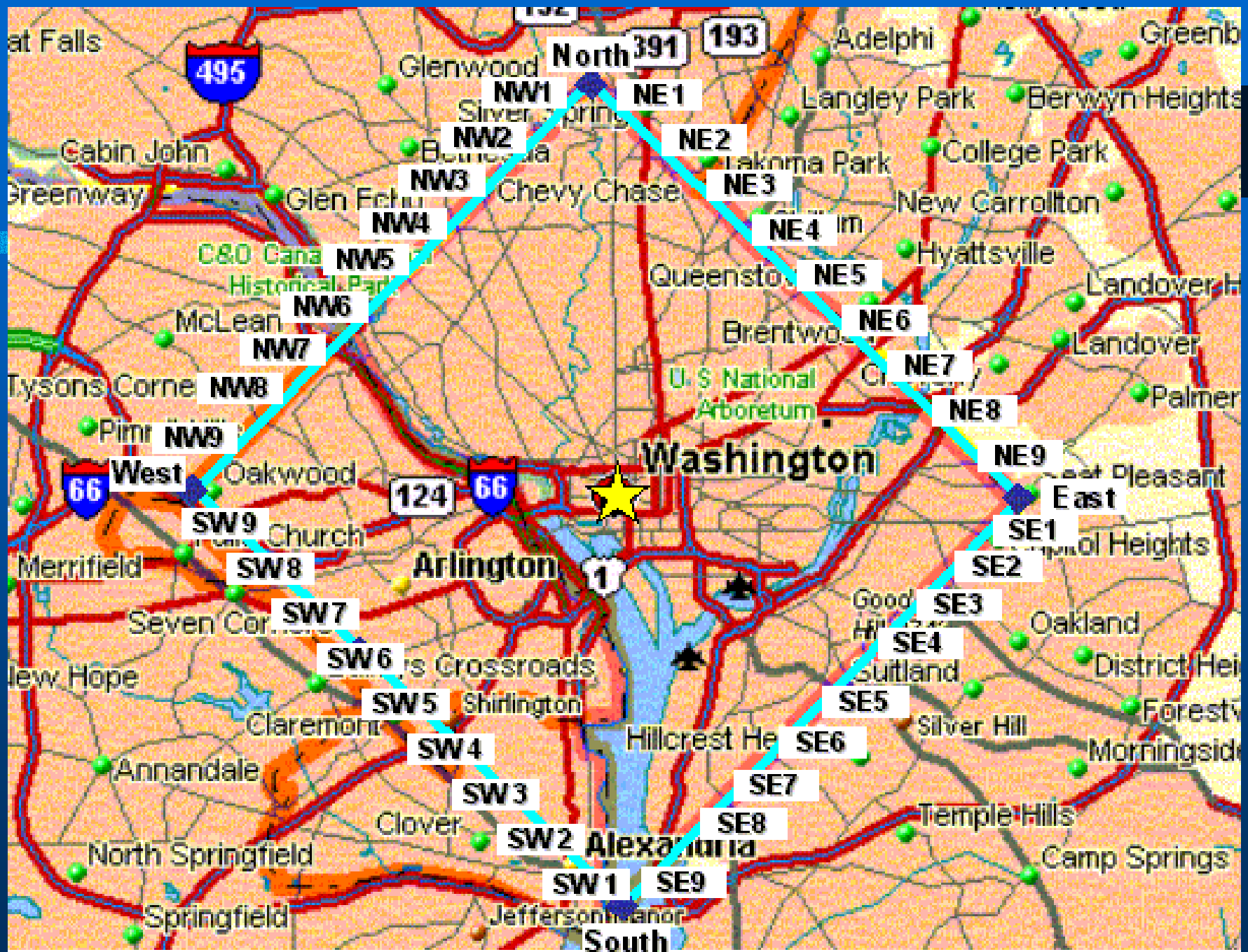


The Foreign-born in Arlington – Challenges to Public Health

Susan Allan, MD,JD,MPH
Health Director
Arlington, Virginia

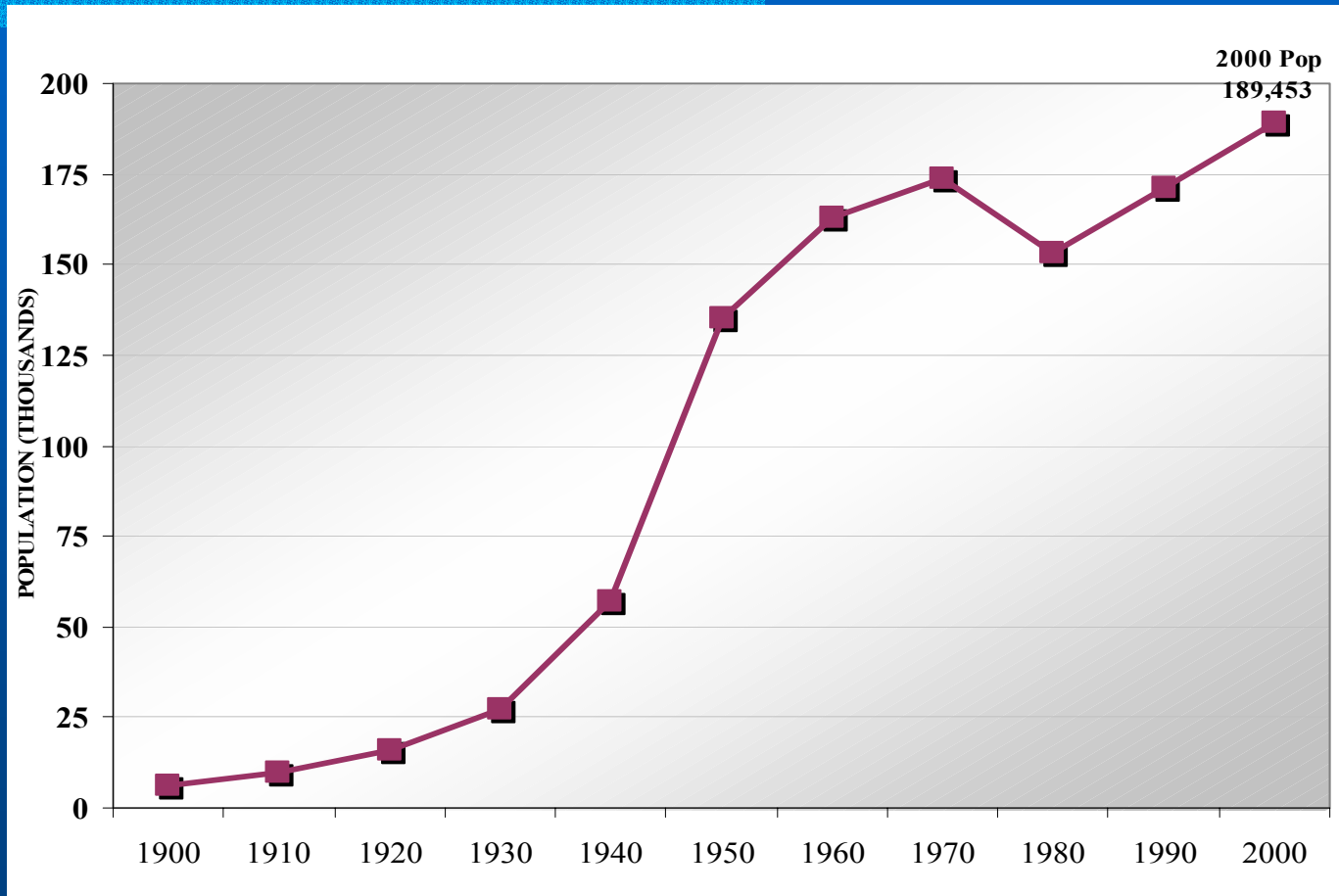
May 27, 2004



Who Are We?

- Resident population: 196, 800 (2003)
- Daytime population: 294,395 (2003)
- Densely populated – 13th in nation
- 44% moved into county within past 5 yrs

Arlington County Population 1900 - 2000



The 1940s

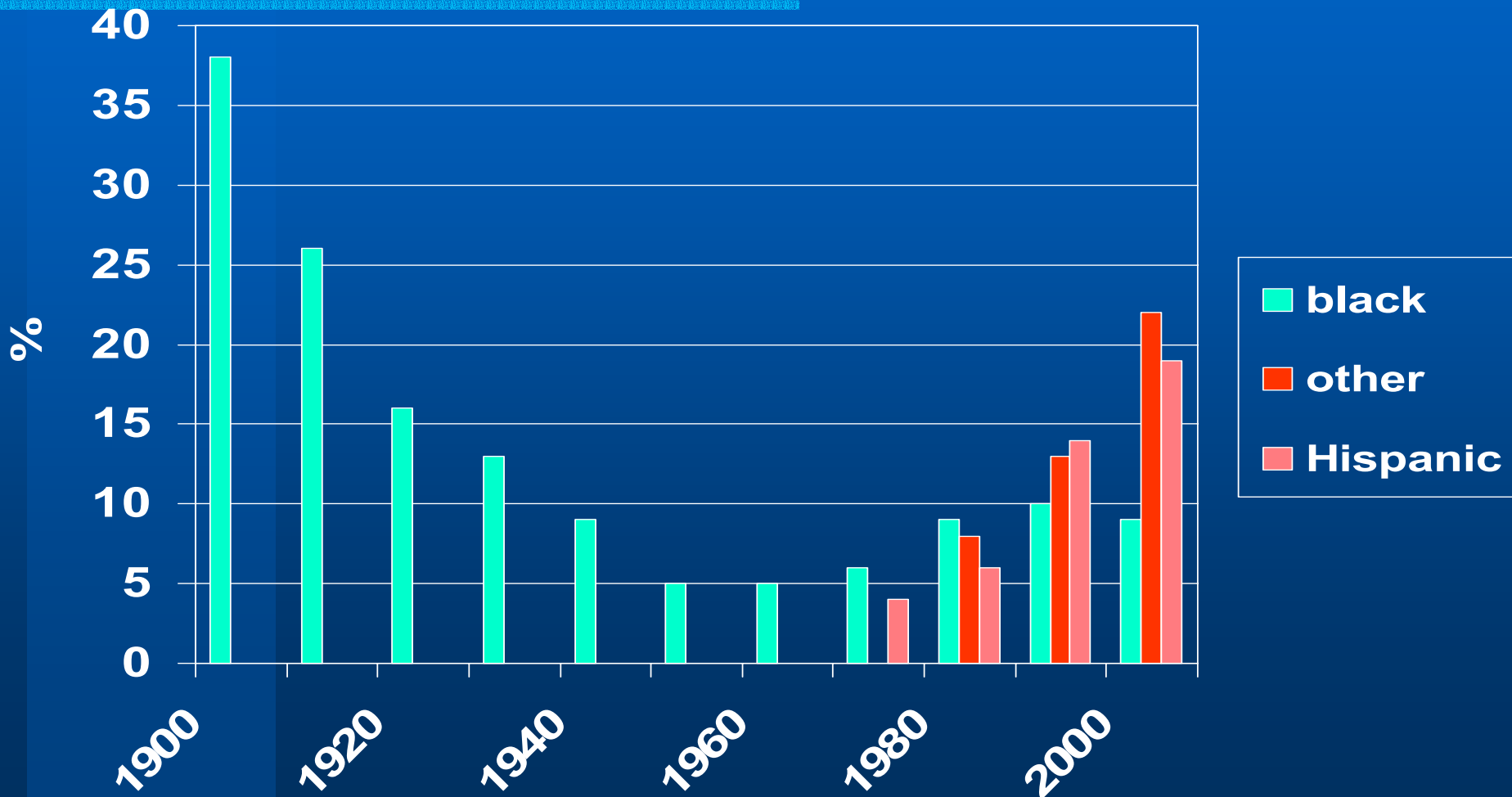
- In the U.S.

- Minimum wage was 43 cents per hour
- Fifty-five percent of homes had indoor plumbing

- In Arlington

- Rapid population growth as people arrive to work for the federal government in support of the war effort.
- Groundbreaking for the Pentagon in 1941
- Still more than 30 farms in the County

Racial and Ethnic Composition – Arlington Population (1900-2000)

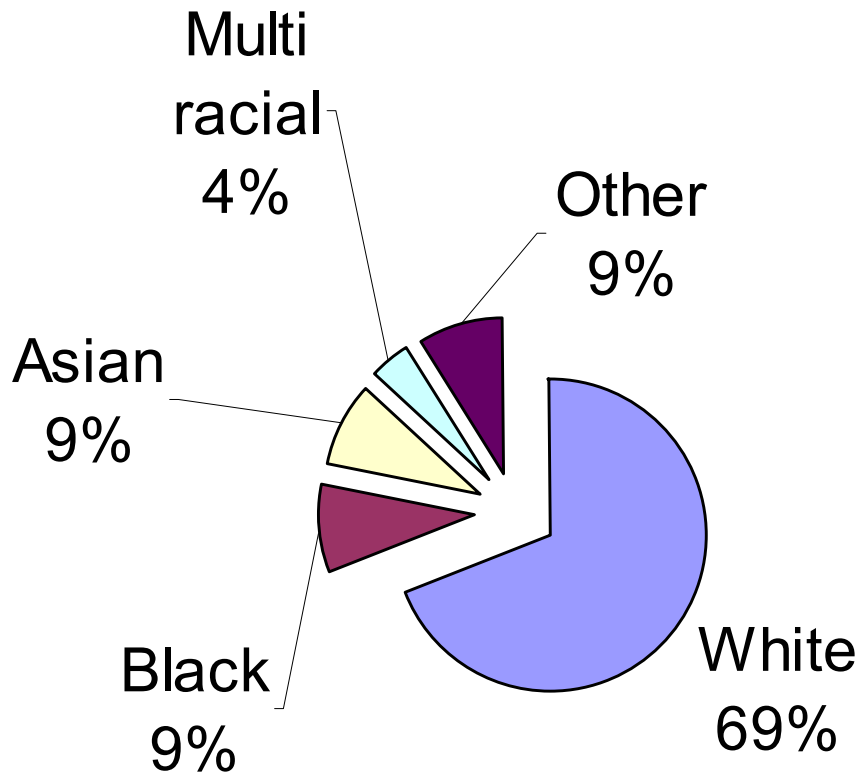


Census notes

- 1900-1950 – Census recorded “foreign born”) for whites only
 - Germany and England, later also Canada
- 1970 – First time “Latino” asked in the census

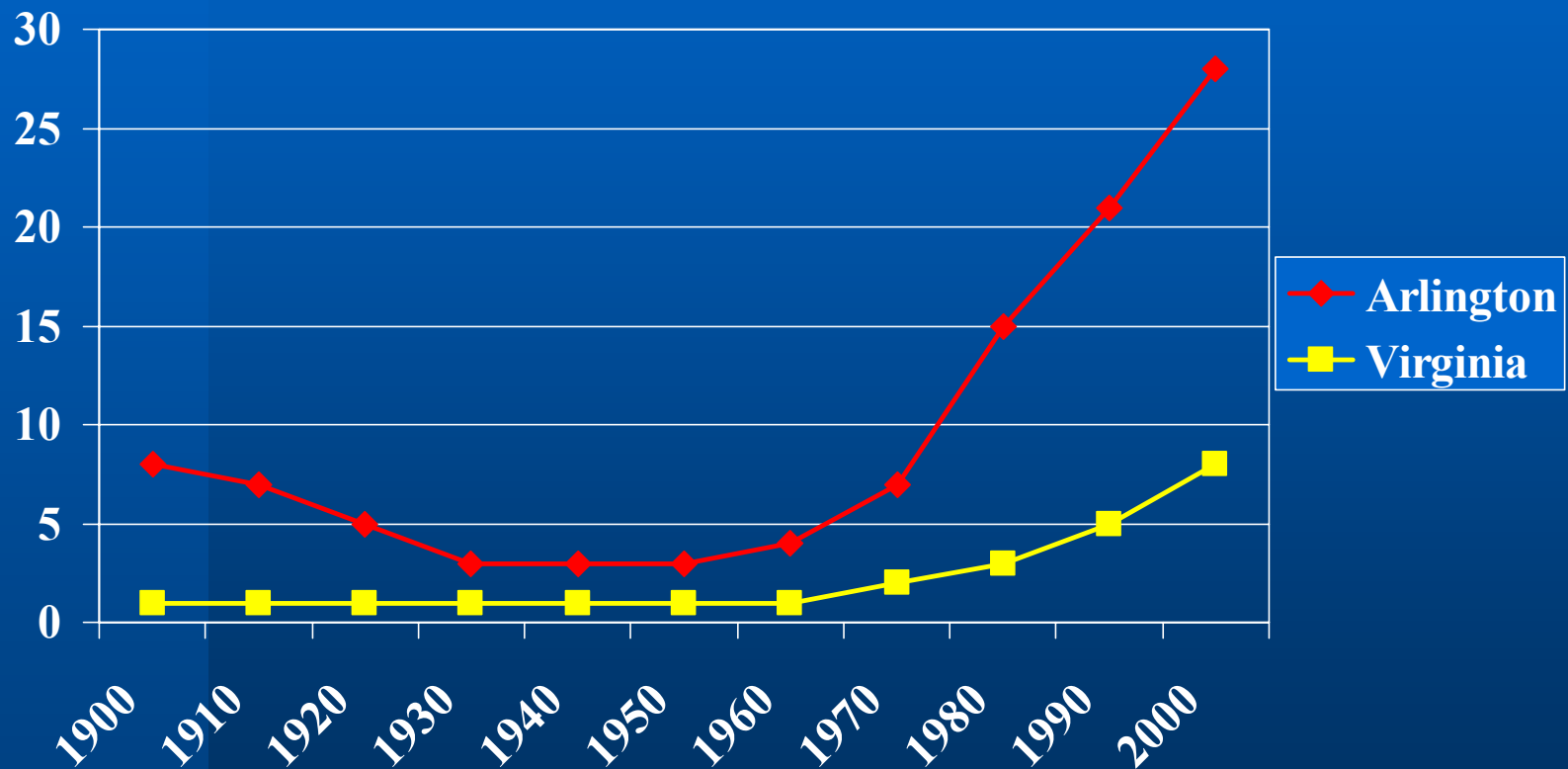
Racial and Ethnic Diversity

Arlington - 2000



- Asian population - in top 1% for the nation
- **19%** of the county's residents are **Hispanic**

Foreign-born as Percent of Population



Foreign-Born Population

- **27.8% of all Arlington residents are foreign-born**
 - the highest proportion in NoVA, NCR
 - Virginia – 8.1%
 - US – 11.1%
- **22nd highest in U.S. (of 3,141 Counties and independents cities in US)**
- **More than 92 countries of origin**
- **60% entered the U.S. in the previous ten years**

Countries of Origin

- **Foreign-born residents from:**
 - Central and South America: 50%
 - Asia: 29%
 - Europe: 10%
- **Most common countries of origin:**
El Salvador, Bolivia, China, India,
Pakistan, Philippines, Vietnam, Peru,
Guatemala, Ethiopia

Percent of Population Who Are Not US Citizens

- **Arlington – 20.2%**
- **Virginia – 4.8%**

Children are disproportionately minority or LEP

- In half of the schools, student population is more than 2/3 minority
- LEP enrollment – 26% student population

Language other than English

- **33% of County households – English not the primary language**
 - 11% in Virginia
- **9% of County residents don't speak English well**
 - 2% in Virginia

JLARC study

- 68% of the foreign-born in VA are in NoVA
- Foreign-born use services LESS (proportionately) than US born,
 - Except Public Health!
- Need different services

Consistent with research on health status of immigrants

- On average, immigrant populations are healthier than the corresponding US born populations
- Use health services half as often
- Healthier maternal and infant outcomes
- Longer life expectancies

Impact on Arlington Public Health Services

- 75-80% of clinic patients are LEP (since late 1980s)
 - Approx 60% Hispanics
- Specific populations have changed
 - East Asians 1970 to mid 1990s
 - Middle Eastern and Indian subcontinent 1980-mid 1990s
 - Eastern European 1990s
 - East African late 1980s to present
 - Latest wave – Mongolian

Public Health Services to Immigrants

– Some Examples from Arlington

- **Communicable diseases**
 - TB, hepatitis B
- **Parasites**
- **Nutrition counseling – “cultural” translation**
- **Obesity in infants and young children**
- **Preferred forms of birth control**
- **Different expectations for child discipline, etc**
- **How to use US health care “system”**

So how have we responded to these dramatic changes in the population we serve?

(Stay tuned!)